REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed July 22, 2008, the Office noted that claims 21-23 were pending and rejected claims 21-23. Claims 21 has been amended, no claims have been canceled, claims 28-39 have been added, and, thus, in view of the foregoing claims 21-39 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Office's rejections are traversed below.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hughes, U.S. Patent No. 6,854,009. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with an argument and amendment.

Hughes discusses a network with multiple servers and multiple distributed client devices each with an operating system. At boot the client connects to one of the servers by whatever means possible and downloads a base operating system and some applications without any user accessible setup. The client may be a thin client, to the extent that there is no hard disk – but there may be flash memory. If there is not, then this ensures that the base operating system must be reloaded each time.

The Applicants have amended the claim 21 to recite "[a] method of providing a VPN communication between two or more

network devices of unknown network address at least a first one of which network devices does not initially know the other network devices internet network addresses, the method comprising: providing a verification authority connected to the internet remote from the two or more network devices and capable of verifying the identity of the two or more internet network devices; providing a configuration server connected to the internet remote from the two or more network devices and capable of supplying to each verified internet device the entire configuration data for that verified internet device; providing each of the two or more network devices having no provision to permanently store the user configuration data, but each of the devices containing configuration information sufficient to contact a designated internet address of the remote verification authority, providing within each of the two or more network devices, a routine which securely contacts the remote verification authority, providing the identity of the network device, and using the designated internet address of that remote verification authority, and subsequently downloading from a remote configuration authority authorized by the remote verification authority the entire configuration data each time the device is initialized, for one of the two or more internet network devices, each time that device is initialized, reloading that device with the downloaded configuration data; and storing the allocated internet network address of the network device at

the verification authority, repeating the process for each of the other network devices so that each of the other network devices downloads from the remote configuration server authorized by the remote verification authority the entire configuration data for that particular internet network device each time that particular device is initialized and reloading that particular device with the downloaded configuration data, and storing the allocated internet network address for that particular device at the verification authority, and initiating a VPN communication between two or more of the network devices, by sending an instruction from the verification authority to one of the network devices by supplying to that network device the allocated internet address of at least one of the other network devices so that the recipient internet device can communicate with the other network device." (Emphasis added)

Support may be found, for example, page 4, line 25 through page 6, line 11 of the Specification. Particularly, at page 5, line 6, page 6, line 6, line 12, line 19, and lines 21-29. The Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by the amendment of claim 21.

It is respectfully, submitted that claims as now recited are not disclosed by Hughes.

Further, the Applicants in a document after the appendix of this document submit the Affidavit of Simon M. Gamble a director of the Application's Assignee. Mr. Gamble is an

expert in the field IT and Telecommunications and he further argues the differences between the present claims and the prior art. Also, find after the Appendix of this document a white paper that explains the background of the present invention. The Applicant does not enter the white paper as an amendment to the Specification, but solely to differentiate the claims from the prior art via background.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Hughes fails to disclose the features of amended claim 21 and the claims dependent therefrom.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 28-39 are new. Support for claims 28-39 may be found, for example, on page 4, line 25 through page 6, line 11 of the Specification. The Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by the addition of claims 28-39. The prior art fails to disclose providing a remote authority connected to the internet remote from the one or more network devices and capable of verifying the identity of the one or more internet network devices; and requiring each of the network devices to communicate with the remote authority to inform the remote authority of the current public IP address of the network device, and storing the current public IP address of each network device at the remote authority, wherein a VPN can be initiated from the remote authority by sending a request to at least one of the network

devices to connect to another of the network devices by sending to the at least one network device the current public IP addresses of the other network devices to which the at least one network device is to be connected.

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102. It is also submitted that claims 21-27 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- Affidavit
- White Paper